

SARAH HODGEN
(Teacher)

DRAWER 4 EDUCATION

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Abraham Lincoln and Education

Sarah Hodgen

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Feb 12

Flags Will Fly Today

Lincoln's First Teacher Has Relative In County; Abe's 146th Anniversary

There were no flags or banners flying 146 years ago when Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Hardin Co., Ky. (now Larue County). But the flags will fly high today in memory of Honest Abe, 16th President of the United States.

There's much in Lincoln's birthday that 85-year-old Frank Hodgen, Lebanon road, is happy to celebrate because he has reason to believe that he's a direct descendant of Sarah Hodgen who first taught Lincoln to read and write.

There is nothing new that can be said of Abraham Lincoln—it's all been said in many ways, in many forms before.

BUT HODGEN will tell you that he's proud that his ancestor is Sarah Hodgen and she taught Lincoln how to spell.

According to all historical accounts Miss Hodgen taught Lincoln and he would carve words into trees, words like dog, cats, hen. It seems that Lincoln would almost always misspell "turkey". He'd spell it "tirkee."

Today Lincoln is best remembered for his Gettysburg address, delivered Nov. 19, 1863, at the dedication of the military cemetery.

Every child's school book, college literature and journalism book has a copy of that address included in its contents.

Five copies in Lincoln's hand are

extant. The first and second draft, prepared in Washington and Gettysburg before delivery, are in the Library of Congress. The second draft was exhibited on the Freedom Train. The third draft, written at the request of Edward Everett, former president of Harvard, to be sold at a fair in New York for benefit of soldiers, was given to the Illinois State library.

ACCORDING TO the 1953 issue of the New York World-Telegram almanac the fourth copy was owned by Mrs. Nicholas H. Noyes of Indianapolis and was expected to be donated to Dartmouth college. The fifth copy, the clearest and best, was written for George Bancroft to be reproduced in a volume

to be sold for benefit of soldiers and sailors in Baltimore.

Burnus Hodgen, Frankfort, first cousin of John Hodgen who is the son of Frank, had the family tree traced and discovered that the Hodgen family originated in Hodgenville, Ky., where Lincoln spent his early boyhood. It also was learned that Sarah is a direct descendant, and the town was apparently named after the Hodgens.—A. W.

Frankfort Ind.

